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NEWS RELEASE

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DILLON STUDENT GETS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

MISSOULA--

From Missoula, Montana, to Salamanca, Spain, one young woman is finding out just how small the world is.

To complete her bachelor of arts degree at The University of Montana, Jennifer Malesich of **Dillon** will spend a semester studying amid the historic cathedrals and plazas of Salamanca. She leaves Dec. 28, traveling to Belfast, Ireland, and Amsterdam, Netherlands, before arriving in Spain for the Feb. 1 start of classes.

Malesich's semester in Salamanca is the culmination of her studies in Spanish, her minor. An English/creative writing major, Malesich signed up for Eva Legido-Quigley's study-abroad class to gain a deeper knowledge of the Spanish language.

"It'll be really great to live in the setting of a Spanish culture and to learn the language in that kind of environment," Malesich said. "You learn it so much more because you're forced to communicate in Spanish."

In Salamanca, Malesich and 23 classmates will live with host families and attend a private language institute. Malesich's classes there will include art history, history, Spanish literature and Spanish language. Her spring break will be spent at the beach in southern Spain.

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Foreign travel is not new to Malesich. She spent six weeks this summer traveling in Israel, Jordan and Egypt and hopes to return to the Middle East to work after she graduates. She is certified in teaching English as a second language.

"I got really interested in the people and the history and the conflicts in the Middle East," she said. "I'd like to spend a little more time there, learning about ancient and modern history.

"It really fascinated me to see this culture that we hear so much about but rarely experience personally. Our cultures are very similar and very different."

Malesich was struck by the universal nature of American culture: "You see McDonald's and American brands everywhere, and it was amazing to see how many people spoke English."

For Malesich, who will greet the new millennium with friends in Belfast, the opportunity to travel is an enriching experience, personally and professionally.

"I think the world is becoming smaller in the sense that people can travel and communicate across the globe, and businesses are becoming more globally orientated," she said. "It's important to be more understanding of different cultures and people. When you're traveling and speaking other languages and experiencing other cultures, you have a more holistic idea of the whole world."

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Dillon Tribune
Malesich.rl